

NPL Factsheets for Michigan:

ELECTRO-VOICE

EPA REGION 5

Berrien County
Buchanan

EPA ID# MID005068143

6th Congressional District

Last Update: February 2002

Site Description

Electro-Voice, Inc. (EV) is an active 11.5 acre site in Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan that has been in operation since 1946. Current activities at the facility include painting, electroplating, assembly, die casting and machining. The property includes the EV building and parking area, a former dry well area where paint wastes and solvents were disposed, former lagoons where electroplating wastes were disposed, and a former fuel tank area. Groundwater contamination extends from EV approximately one-half mile north of the site. EV is surrounded by a residential area and an elementary school. The population of Buchanan is approximately 7,000. All residents are connected to the city water supply system. The city wells are not threatened by the EV contamination. EV was investigated by the state of Michigan in March 1979 when a drain pipe ruptured and plating solution was released into a lagoon. In January 1980, EV installed four groundwater monitoring wells around the lagoons. Groundwater samples collected from the wells contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. In 1980, the contents from

one of the lagoons was removed. The EV site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) on November 21, 1984.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 12/30/82
Final Date: 09/21/84

Threats and Contaminants

The lagoons and the dry well area soils contained VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals. The contaminants in the dry well area seeped into the groundwater and contaminated the groundwater under the site with VOCs and SVOCs. The groundwater contamination extends about one-half mile north of the site. The main contaminant in the off-property groundwater is trichloroethene (TCE). Other off-property groundwater contaminants include vinyl chloride, chromium, copper and zinc.

Cleanup Progress

EV began a RI/FS at the site in December 1987 under an AOC. The RI/FS was completed in 1991. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) selected a final cleanup plan for the lagoons, the dry well area soil and on-property groundwater in a June 1992 Record of Decision (ROD). After 5 years of groundwater monitoring and an additional groundwater investigation, EPA selected a final cleanup plan for the off-property groundwater in a ROD in September 1999.

EV entered into a Consent Decree with U.S. EPA to implement the Remedial Design and Remedial Action (RD/RA) for the June 1992 ROD in December 1992. In 1996 EV constructed a clay cap over the lagoons. The clay cap is surrounded by a 6-foot chain-link fence. U.S. EPA approved the final RA report for the lagoons in March 1997. The dry

well area soils and on-property groundwater are being cleaned up by an in-situ ventilation and volatilization system (SVVS). The SVVS uses a combination of air injection, soil vapor extraction and in-situ biodegradation technologies and was installed in March 1993 as a part of U.S. EPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program. U.S. EPA evaluated the SVVS after one year of operation and found it to be effective in reducing contaminant concentrations. The SVVS was operated from 1993 until late 1999, but is not currently operable. Contaminant concentrations in the on-property groundwater have been below cleanup levels since 1996. EV was included on U.S. EPA's Construction Completion List in September 1999.

In September 2000 Mark IV, a successor corporation, reached an agreement with U.S. EPA to implement the cleanup plan for the off-property groundwater. U.S. EPA's selected remedy for the off-property groundwater contamination is monitored natural attenuation (MNA) with institutional controls, long-term monitoring and contingency actions. U.S. EPA anticipates that the groundwater will be cleaned up in 53 to 66 years.

Mark IV entered into a Consent Decree with U.S. EPA to implement the MNA remedy for Off-Property Groundwater Contamination for U.S. EPA review in June 2001. A U.S. EPA comment letter on the draft RD Work Plan Off-Property Groundwater Contamination was sent out on July 2001. Currently, Mark IV is revising the draft RD Work Plan Off-Property Groundwater Contamination. U.S. EPA expects that the final long-term MNA plan will be developed and implemented in 2002.

The first Five-Year review was conducted and completed on September 28, 2001. Based upon the current evaluation of Site conditions and the monitoring results, the remedy selected for lagoons, the dry well soil area and the on-property groundwater monitoring remains protective of human health and the environment. The deed restrictions are in place at the site to restrict activities which could disturb the dry well area soil. The remedy for off-property groundwater

has not been fully implemented, but the remedy selected is expected to be protective of human health and the environment once completed. The next Five-Year review will be completed during June 2006.

Contacts

Remedial Project Manager

Giang Van Nguyen

(312) 886-6726

nguyen.giang-van@epa.gov

Community Involvement Coordinator

Jennifer Ostermeier

(312) 353-0618

ostermeier.jennifer@epa.gov

The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Buchanan Public Library

117 West Front Street

Buchanan, Michigan

USEPA Region 5 Superfund Records center

77 West Jackson, 7th Floor

Chicago, Illinois